

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected Claims 23-25, 28, 29, and 32 as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,199,090 to Bell in view of US Patent 6,351,447 to Takagi et al.

Claims 26, 27, and 30 were objected to, with the Examiner indicating that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, Applicants have amended the rejected independent claims (Claims 23, 29, and 32) to include limitations directed to subject matter that the Examiner indicated was allowable. Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 26; Claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 30; and Claim 32 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 27.

In addition, Applicants have added four new claims, Claims 34-37. Claim 34 is similar to Claim 23 as previously presented, but incorporates the limitations of Claim 27. Claims 35, 36, and 37, are analogous to Claims 24, 25, and 28, respectively.

Applicants have reviewed Claims 2-4 and 19-21, and they appear to be in good form. The Examiner indicated on the Summary Sheet that they were objected to, but also indicated that they were allowed. Further, no reasons were given for objecting to these claims. Applicants assume that this represents a typographical error, but if need be, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned to resolve any outstanding problems in wording.

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-9-

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Finally, a preliminary amendment was filed March 15, 2002 and, according to the PAIR system, was received in the Patent Office. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this amendment if she has not already done so.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if a telephone conference will expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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-10-

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